DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Monday, January 12, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	06:02pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:17am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	10℃
Maximum	24℃
Humidity	28%
Outlook	Sunny

Zakaria, Orfi claim Karachi Open titles in Egyptian double

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Citywide traffic jams exhaust road users

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: Commuters heading towards the city centre on Sunday evening suffered prolonged traffic jams as multiple arteries remained choked due to roadblocks by law enforcers in the wake of a political rally near Numaish Chowrangi.

Due to the holiday, people were travelling with their families to various parts of the city; however, because of the traffic jams, routes that usually take only a few minutes were taking hours.

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf had announced a public gathering in the Bagh-i-Jinnah ground on Sunday near Numaish Chowrangi to demonstrate its political power.

The traffic police did not provide any information on their official X account regarding which roads were blocked due to congestion or which alternative routes could be used.

Multiple roads in districts West, Keamari and Central were choked as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi visited parts of Baldia Town, Ittehan Town and other areas to mobilise people for their rally.

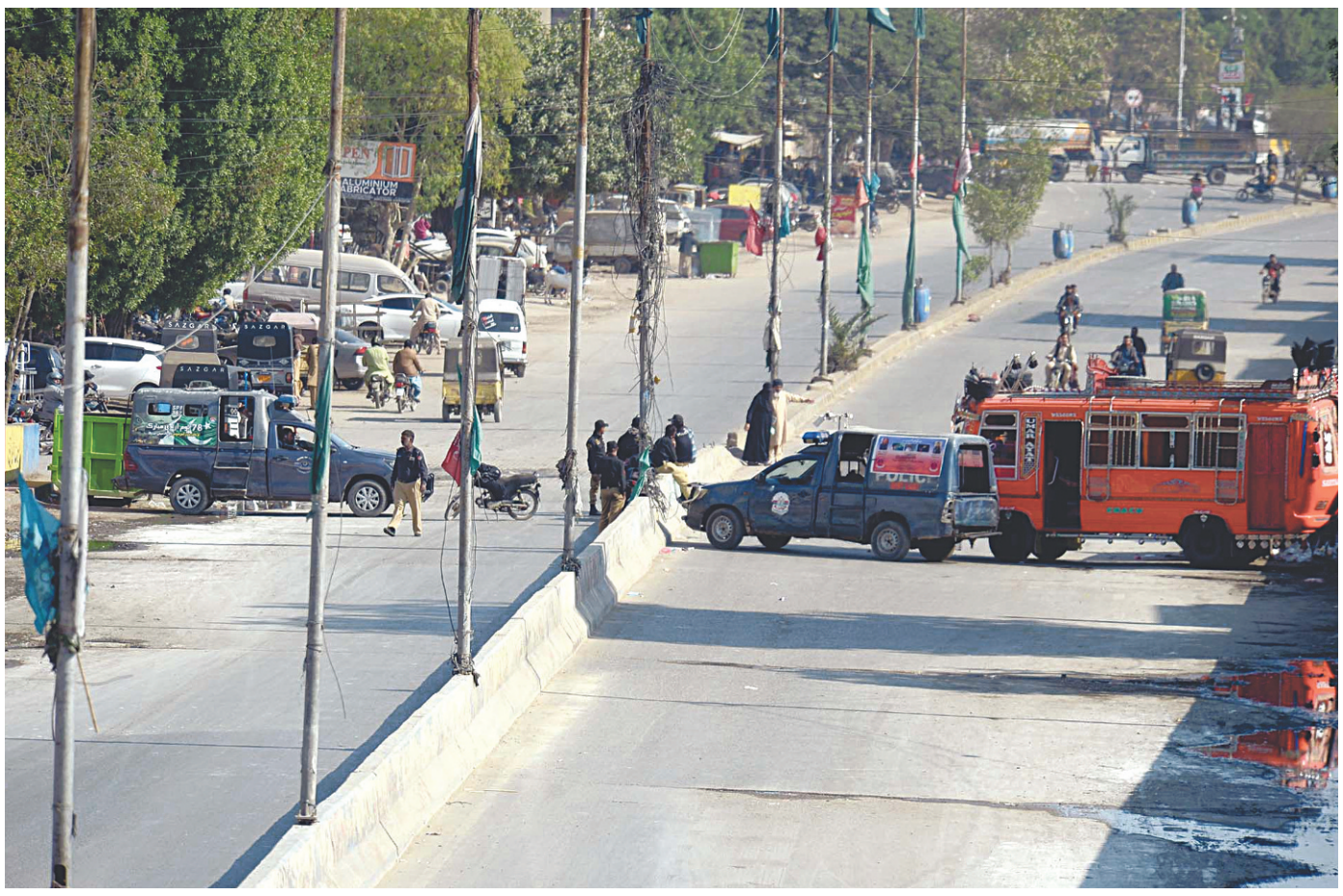
Party activists were also seen heading towards the city centre in the form of rallies, carrying party flags on trucks, cars, and motorcycles in the evening. As a result, Jahangir Road, road from Nazimabad to Habib Bank Chowrangi, Sanitary Market to Lasbela and Rizivia Society to Pak Colony were jammed.

Meanwhile, commuters who wished to take the Liaquatabad Dak Khana route also faced prolonged traffic jams for hours. However, this was not the only route where people were suffering from traffic congestion, as vehicles coming from Essa Nagri and Gharibabad towards the Civic Centre and Sharea Faisal were also moving at a snail's pace severe jams.

Sharea Faisal was, however, opened for vehicular traffic.

Commuters travelling in cars remained stuck, while motorcyclists took adjacent streets in search of alternative routes so that they could reach their destinations.

It was also reported that routes connecting to Numaish Chowrangi were either blocked or had heavy police deployment which led traffic jams on main arteries. Meanwhile, commuters travelling on Rashid Minhas Road and University Road towards Hassan Square also faced prolonged traffic jams due to severe congestion.



AUTHORITIES block one of the roads leading to Bagh-i-Jinnah ahead of PTI's public meeting, resulting in traffic jams across the city. —PPI

76 Hindu couples tie the knot at combined marriages ceremony

Wedding parties arrive at beautifully decorated venue of Railway Ground from all over Sindh

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Around 76 lucky Hindu couples began a new chapter in their lives as they tied the knot at the 19th Combined Marriages Ceremony organised by the Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) in collaboration with the Dr Prem Kumar Sital Das Memorial Trust at the Railway Ground here on very chilly Sunday.

It was announced at the ceremony that there are actually 126 couples getting married this year though in Karachi there are some 76 of them as arrangements have been made for another 50 of them to be married in their cities and villages.

The wedding parties including the couples, their parents, relatives and guests arrived from all over the city as well as Sindh's interior at the beautifully decorated venue.

The wedding rituals started late as the organisers had to wait for everyone to reach the venue. "What about the *mahurat* [auspicious moment]?" Someone asked the priest, Maharaj Jai Kumar Trivedi, who was there to wed everyone. "The *mahurat* will be whenever everyone gets here safe and sound," the priest smiled.

Maharaj Trivedi had himself arrived at the venue very early, at 10am. "I had to be here early in order to supervise the setting up of each *mandap* in the 75 cabins," he told *Dawn* while arranging things before him on the stage for the 76th couple. There was a traditional fire or *agni*, some rice placed in a special formation, coconut, some betel leaves, etc. The same had been replicated on small tables in every cabin, each of which bore the name of the bride and groom above its entrance.

Soon the model couple of Priya and Sagar, a primary school teacher and an electrician, respectively, from Saddar, Karachi, who were going to be wed on the stage before the audience by the priest, arrived, too. The others in the cabins quickly got ready to carefully watch the rituals on the big screens and follow each step.

There was a visible difference between the couples arriving from the interior of Sindh and the ones from Karachi. The local couples looked more confident and fresh in comparison to those who had travelled here. Many of them were carrying luggage including blankets and quilts, it being so cold. One such couple was from Umerkot. Another which arrived from Sukkur got some attention because of their names. The bride was

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A WOMAN takes a selfie at one of the cabins set up for couples. —Shakil Adil/ White Star

Karachi shivers as mercury drops to 6.6°C

Several schools inform parents about compliance with govt order regarding 9am opening time across Sindh due to cold snap

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Temperature dropped to 6.6 degrees Celsius in parts of Karachi on Sunday as the province remained in the grip of a cold wave affecting the whole country.

The Met department recorded 6.6°C minimum temperature at Jinnah Terminal, followed by 8.8°C in Bin Qasim town, 9.4°C in Gulistan-i-Jauhar, 9.5°C on Sharea Faisal and 12.5°C Maripur.

It said that the city's average minimum temperature was 8.9°C.

The department has forecast dry weather with cold night with temperature ranging from 8°C to 10°C over the next two days (Monday and Tuesday).

City's maximum temperature recorded on Sunday was 25.6°C.

Relative humidity was 61 per cent and 12pc in the morning and evening, respectively.

The province's coldest town was Mithi where minimum temperature was 1°C followed by Padidan and Mohenjo-Daro (2°C).

According to the Met department, moderate to dense fog is likely to persist over Sukkur, Rohri, Shikarpur, Kashmore, Shaheed Benazirabad, Dadu, Larkana, Tandojam, Mohenjo-Daro and surrounding areas.

Schools to open at 9am for two weeks

In pursuance of a Sindh government directive, majority of private educational institutions have communicated to parents that the schools will now open at 9am instead of their earlier timings.

On Saturday, the provincial government had issued a notification, asking all schools to revise their timings in view of cold weather. It stated that the revised timings will remain in force until Jan 26. School dispersal timings will remain unchanged.

However, a top private school in the metropolis having campuses in Clifton and Saddar informed parents that their school timings "will remain unchanged" and they must ensure that "students continue to follow the existing schedule".

Another private girls school at Bahadurabad revised both the opening and dispersal timings.

Efforts on to improve pressure, resume normal gas supply: SSGC

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has said that the utility is actively pursuing efforts to fix the technical fault that caused a 30 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) shortfall, and the deficit was likely to be fully recovered within the next few days.

"Once normal supply levels resume, pressure tightness is anticipated to ease, restoring full service to households across Sindh and Balochistan," it said.

A gas utility spokesperson said that as an unexpected cold snap swept across Pakistan, households in Sindh and Balochistan faced a sudden surge in natural gas demand, pushing the SSGC into emergency measures to protect the domestic supply.

She said that the winter spike, driven largely by increased use of geysers and space heaters, raised overall consumption by roughly 10 per cent. "To bridge the gap, SSGC diverted about 90 MMCFD of re-liquefied natural gas into the network," she said.

However, the spokesperson said a rapid temperature drop in recent days caused a further, unanticipated rise in household demand, extending cooking hours and intensifying morning and evening peaks.

She said that an upstream technical issue cut supply by an estimated 30 MMCFD, compounding the situation and creating a shortfall that lowered distribution pressures in several tail-end localities.

"In response, SSGC activated its government-approved load management plan, which includes curtailing gas to fertiliser plants and enforcing weekly industrial closures to prioritise residential consumers," she added.

The spokesperson said that domestic supply remained the gas utility's first priority, in line with the prime minister's directives and the approved load-management framework. "The company pledges to maintain uninterrupted service from 5 am to 10 pm daily, while deploying special 24-hour teams to address low-pressure complaints across the franchise areas," she added.

Trailers run over, kill biker, passer-by

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Reckless and negligent driving claimed lives of two men in the metropolis on Sunday, police and rescue service officials said.

In the first incident, they said, a fast-moving trailer ran over and killed a motorcyclist on Northern Bypass near Mowach Goth.

The driver responsible for the fatal accident managed to escape from the spot, leaving behind the heavy vehicle that was impounded by the police.

The body was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) for medico-legal formalities.

The Keamari police said that his identity could not be ascertained till late in the night.

In the second incident, another unidentified passer-by was killed when a trailer hit him near Valika in SITE area.

An Edhi Foundation spokesperson confirmed the incident and said that the body was shifted to the CHK.

The trailer driver managed to speed away.

KMC to spend Rs700m on reviving historic city markets

Mayor Wahab promises restoration of Jodia Bazaar, Bolton Market, Mithadar, Kharadar and Lea Market building

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has launched a series of development projects worth over Rs700 million for the restoration and improvement of the old city area of the metropolis, with Mayor Murtaza Wahab laying the foundation stone on Sunday.

The objective of this comprehensive scheme is to improve roads, the sewerage system and public facilities, for which a completion date of June 30 has been set.

Mr Wahab announced that the main project, covering areas like Jodia Bazaar, Bolton Market, Mithadar and Kharadar, will be completed at a cost of Rs595.6m. An additional Rs100m has been allocated for the restoration of the historic Lea Market building, which is to be completed in 90 days with the cooperation of local traders.

The extensive infrastructure works include laying 400,000 square feet of paver blocks and constructing 850,000 square feet of roads.

A major focus will be on the overhaul of the sewerage system, under which new pipelines will be laid in all four major commercial areas.

According to details of the project, over 2,600 feet of new sewerage lines will be laid in Jodia Bazaar, while the sewerage system in Bolton Market will be upgraded with over 4,000 feet of new pipes.

Similarly, 4,050 feet and 4,100 feet of new sewerage lines will be laid in Mithadar and Kharadar respectively, along with significant construction of roads and paver blocks.

Speaking to the media, the mayor said that the year 2026 has been declared the year of completion for development projects and equipping the Old City area with modern urban facilities is the top priority of the KMC.

He emphasised that all work will be carried out transparently and stressed the need for better coordination among municipal departments to protect newly constructed roads from being dug up.

He also spoke about broader urban challenges and confirmed that work on new water lines in Lyari is expected to be completed by June.

The mayor mentioned that the K-IV Augmentation project has been initiated, under which Rs71 billion will be spent on laying water lines, which he described as a fundamental right of the public and the vision of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

To tackle water theft, he announced that a Water Tribunal is being formally inaugurated following the completion of legislation and the appointment of a judge. He said that this new institution will help overcome this long-standing issue.

He confirmed that the KMC will spend a total of Rs46 billion on development works across the city this year.

Mr Wahab called upon opposition parties, including Jamaat-i-Islami, to play a serious role in solving urban problems and questioned why roads at the town level are not being built despite the allocation of funds.

The foundation stone laying ceremony was attended by City Council Parliamentary Leader Karamullah Waqasi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader Dil Muhammad, other elected officials and local residents.—PPI

A VIEW of the historic Lea Market.— Dawn